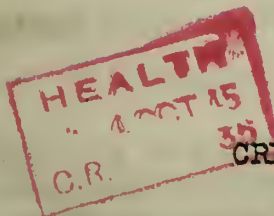


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CREWKERNE

URBAN

DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT



of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1944.

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Public Health Officers :-

Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

H.R. Stamp, A.R. San. I.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District .

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1944. Five years of War have resulted in a considerable accumulation of public works. By far the most important is the shortage of houses which becomes an increasingly urgent problem. Many houses at present occupied are, or should be condemned as unfit for human habitation but it is impossible to proceed until alternative accommodation is available.

The supply of water has been of good quality if inadequate in quantity and frequently cut off. A general shortage has been felt in the country as a whole during the year, but the fact remains that a more dependable supply will be required for the future needs of the town.

Considerable work will be required at The Eastern Outfall Sewage Works after the War. The inefficiency of these works is a nuisance but not at present likely to become a serious menace to the health of the town.

In the circumstances the health of the town has been good. Deaths have been mainly of elderly people, and no serious epidemic has occurred. 87 cases of Measles were notified, but no deaths from this cause. A teacher in Yeovil Girl's Secondary School was notified as suffering from Small Pox at Easter. Several girls from Crewkerne attended the School and in view of the comparatively small number of recently vaccinated people in the district, there was risk of a serious epidemic if further cases occurred. It was thought wise to inform the public and make arrangements for immediate vaccination of all who wished to have this done. Some 3,000 persons were vaccinated in the town, some of whom came from surrounding districts. This vaccination should be a considerable insurance against a serious Small Pox epidemic for some years to come, years when the return of troops from abroad may increase the risk of importing the disease. Fortunately, measures taken limited the outbreak to one case. The whole work was carried through with a speed and efficiency which reflects great credit on the local Medical and Red Cross and St. John personnel.

Hospital Services continue to be good which also reflects credit on local Doctors and Nursing Staff in present difficult times.

Yours faithfully,

D.V. HAGUE.

SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	1,221 Acres
Registrar-General's estimate of					
(a) Resident Population, mid-1940					
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates					3,835
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books					1,200
Rateable Value	...	...	...		£20,704
Sum represented by a penny rate			...		£83

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	68	32	36
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Still Births - Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths.	49	23	26
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			18
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			14
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population.			13

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total Births (live & still)
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes		

Death rate of Infants under One year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.	28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	29
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1



Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	3	7
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	3	4
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	1
Cancer	2	2
Diabetes	-	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1
Bronchitis	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1
Nephritis	2	-
Premature Birth	1	-
Suicide	1	1
Other Violent Causes	1	-
All other causes	5	3
	<u>23</u>	<u>26</u>
	—	—

SECTION B

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

- |    |     |   |             |
|----|-----|---|-------------|
| 1. | (1) | Medical Officer of Health }<br>Sanitary Inspector } | No. Change. |
| 2. | (a) | Laboratory Facilities.                              | No. Change  |
|    | (b) | Ambulance Facilities                                | No. Change  |
|    | (c) | Clinic  |             |
|    | (d) | Nursing   | No. Change  |
|    | (e) | Hospital  |             |

SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply - No Change.
2. Draining and Sewerage - The Council's Consulting Engineer is preparing a post-war scheme for new works at the Eastern Outfall Sewage Works.

3. (i) Closest Accommodation - No Change  
 (ii) Public Cleansing - No Change  
 (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Inspections for nuisances :- NIL  
 Informal Notices :-

Drainage Tests and Inspections. New draining work carried out during the year was tested and passed.

Houses disinfected 2 Houses were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases.

Shops and Offices No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement No cases of smoke nuisance were reported during the year.

4. Schools - No change  
 Evacuees under the Government Scheme are accommodated at the Crewkerne Schools.

#### SECTION D - HOUSING.

No new houses have been built during the year. There were approximately 148 evacuees in the town at the end of the year. Twelve condemned houses are still temporarily in use.

#### Housing inspections.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts.) ... 34  
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 39
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932. ... NIL  
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... NIL  
 (c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary NIL
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the **preceding** sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... TWO

Housing Action.

- (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ... ONE
- (b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action. ... NIL

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under the Sections 9.10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... NIL

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13, and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... NIL

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. NIL

Housing Act, 1936. - Overcrowding.

There is still some unavoidable but highly undesirable over-crowding. ...

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk supply.

Number of Producers on the Register. ... TEN

Number of Distributors on the register...  
divided as follows:

- (1) Distributors only ... FOUR
- (2) Distributors who are also producers ... TWO

Action taken with regard to inspection of farms and dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938:

Cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected and samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli taken for examination.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed: ... ONE



Local action taken. . . . . NONE

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

At the end of 1943 the following numbers of children had been immunised:-

	<u>Total number</u>	<u>Number Immunised</u>	
<u>School Children</u> <u>attending School</u>	425	401	94%
Children under School age and over 1 year	252	185	73%

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	3	-
Measles	87	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Acute Poliomylitis	1	1	-
Encephalitis	1	-	-

Cases of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases admitted to South  
Petherton Isolation Hospital.

Tonsillitis 1 (Evacue)

[illegible]

Tuberculosis

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25								
25 - 35								
35 - 45		2						
45 - 55	1	1				1		
55 - 65								
65 & upwards								
TOTAL	1	3				1		

Total

New Cases

4

Deaths

1